

Interview Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/988,658	OOSAWA, AKIRA	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Charles Kim	2624	

All participants (applicant, applicant's representative, PTO personnel):

- (1) Charles Kim. (3) _____
 (2) Susan Pan. (4) _____

Date of Interview: 25 October 2007.

Type: a) ☒ Telephonic b) ☐ Video Conference
 c) ☐ Personal [copy given to: 1) ☐ applicant 2) ☐ applicant's representative]

Exhibit shown or demonstration conducted: d) ☐ Yes e) ☐ No.
 If Yes, brief description: _____

Claim(s) discussed: 1 and 8.

Identification of prior art discussed: Kano, Jatko.

Agreement with respect to the claims f) ☒ was reached. g) ☐ was not reached. h) ☐ N/A.

Substance of Interview including description of the general nature of what was agreed to if an agreement was reached, or any other comments: See Continuation Sheet.

(A fuller description, if necessary, and a copy of the amendments which the examiner agreed would render the claims allowable, if available, must be attached. Also, where no copy of the amendments that would render the claims allowable is available, a summary thereof must be attached.)

THE FORMAL WRITTEN REPLY TO THE LAST OFFICE ACTION MUST INCLUDE THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. (See MPEP Section 713.04). If a reply to the last Office action has already been filed, APPLICANT IS GIVEN A NON-EXTENDABLE PERIOD OF THE LONGER OF ONE MONTH OR THIRTY DAYS FROM THIS INTERVIEW DATE, OR THE MAILING DATE OF THIS INTERVIEW SUMMARY FORM, WHICHEVER IS LATER, TO FILE A STATEMENT OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. See Summary of Record of Interview requirements on reverse side or on attached sheet.

Examiner Note: You must sign this form unless it is an Attachment to a signed Office action.

 Examiner's signature, if required

Summary of Record of Interview Requirements

Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP), Section 713.04, Substance of Interview Must be Made of Record

A complete written statement as to the substance of any face-to-face, video conference, or telephone interview with regard to an application must be made of record in the application whether or not an agreement with the examiner was reached at the interview.

Title 37 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) § 1.133 Interviews

Paragraph (b)

In every instance where reconsideration is requested in view of an interview with an examiner, a complete written statement of the reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action must be filed by the applicant. An interview does not remove the necessity for reply to Office action as specified in §§ 1.111, 1.135. (35 U.S.C. 132)

37 CFR §1.2 Business to be transacted in writing.

All business with the Patent or Trademark Office should be transacted in writing. The personal attendance of applicants or their attorneys or agents at the Patent and Trademark Office is unnecessary. The action of the Patent and Trademark Office will be based exclusively on the written record in the Office. No attention will be paid to any alleged oral promise, stipulation, or understanding in relation to which there is disagreement or doubt.

The action of the Patent and Trademark Office cannot be based exclusively on the written record in the Office if that record is itself incomplete through the failure to record the substance of interviews.

It is the responsibility of the applicant or the attorney or agent to make the substance of an interview of record in the application file, unless the examiner indicates he or she will do so. It is the examiner's responsibility to see that such a record is made and to correct material inaccuracies which bear directly on the question of patentability.

Examiners must complete an Interview Summary Form for each interview held where a matter of substance has been discussed during the interview by checking the appropriate boxes and filling in the blanks. Discussions regarding only procedural matters, directed solely to restriction requirements for which interview recordation is otherwise provided for in Section 812.01 of the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure, or pointing out typographical errors or unreadable script in Office actions or the like, are excluded from the interview recordation procedures below. Where the substance of an interview is completely recorded in an Examiners Amendment, no separate Interview Summary Record is required.

The Interview Summary Form shall be given an appropriate Paper No., placed in the right hand portion of the file, and listed on the "Contents" section of the file wrapper. In a personal interview, a duplicate of the Form is given to the applicant (or attorney or agent) at the conclusion of the interview. In the case of a telephone or video-conference interview, the copy is mailed to the applicant's correspondence address either with or prior to the next official communication. If additional correspondence from the examiner is not likely before an allowance or if other circumstances dictate, the Form should be mailed promptly after the interview rather than with the next official communication.

The Form provides for recordation of the following information:

- Application Number (Series Code and Serial Number)
- Name of applicant
- Name of examiner
- Date of interview
- Type of interview (telephonic, video-conference, or personal)
- Name of participant(s) (applicant, attorney or agent, examiner, other PTO personnel, etc.)
- An indication whether or not an exhibit was shown or a demonstration conducted
- An identification of the specific prior art discussed
- An indication whether an agreement was reached and if so, a description of the general nature of the agreement (may be by attachment of a copy of amendments or claims agreed as being allowable). Note: Agreement as to allowability is tentative and does not restrict further action by the examiner to the contrary.
- The signature of the examiner who conducted the interview (if Form is not an attachment to a signed Office action)

It is desirable that the examiner orally remind the applicant of his or her obligation to record the substance of the interview of each case. It should be noted, however, that the Interview Summary Form will not normally be considered a complete and proper recordation of the interview unless it includes, or is supplemented by the applicant or the examiner to include, all of the applicable items required below concerning the substance of the interview.

A complete and proper recordation of the substance of any interview should include at least the following applicable items:

- 1) A brief description of the nature of any exhibit shown or any demonstration conducted,
- 2) an identification of the claims discussed,
- 3) an identification of the specific prior art discussed,
- 4) an identification of the principal proposed amendments of a substantive nature discussed, unless these are already described on the Interview Summary Form completed by the Examiner,
- 5) a brief identification of the general thrust of the principal arguments presented to the examiner,
(The identification of arguments need not be lengthy or elaborate. A verbatim or highly detailed description of the arguments is not required. The identification of the arguments is sufficient if the general nature or thrust of the principal arguments made to the examiner can be understood in the context of the application file. Of course, the applicant may desire to emphasize and fully describe those arguments which he or she feels were or might be persuasive to the examiner.)
- 6) a general indication of any other pertinent matters discussed, and
- 7) if appropriate, the general results or outcome of the interview unless already described in the Interview Summary Form completed by the examiner.

Examiners are expected to carefully review the applicant's record of the substance of an interview. If the record is not complete and accurate, the examiner will give the applicant an extendable one month time period to correct the record.

Examiner to Check for Accuracy

If the claims are allowable for other reasons of record, the examiner should send a letter setting forth the examiner's version of the statement attributed to him or her. If the record is complete and accurate, the examiner should place the indication, "Interview Record OK" on the paper recording the substance of the interview along with the date and the examiner's initials.

Continuation of Substance of Interview including description of the general nature of what was agreed to if an agreement was reached, or any other comments: In an email dated October 17, 2007, Examiner informed Ms. Pan that the amendment to the claims filed on September 24, 2007 did not overcome the prior art references Kano and Jatko. After articulating the reasons why the prior art still read on the amended claims, Examiner proposed claim language that further defined the inventive features of Applicant's invention. Examiner indicated that the proposed language would put the case in condition for allowance. Ms. Pan agreed. The attached Examiner's amendment reflects the language agreed to by Examiner and Ms. Pan..

Kim, Chong Charles

From: Kim, Chong Charles
Sent: Wednesday, October 17, 2007 9:28 PM
To: 'span@sughrue.com'
Subject: 09/988658

Susan,

This email is in regards to the amendment filed on September 24, 2007. After reviewing the claim amendments and the accompanying arguments, it appears that the combination of Kano and Jatko is still applicable to the claims, as amended.

Jatko appears to disclose the features that were added to independent claims 1 and 8. In particular, Jatko discloses a variety of different sized kernels (figure 3) for performing morphological processing on the difference image to suppress artifacts. Jatko's disclosure of using a variety of different sized kernels clearly suggests using a size that is larger than the artifact while smaller than the actual difference, as recited in claims 1 and 8.

In addition, your argument (page 9) that claims 1 and 8, and claims 18 and 20 cannot be concurrently rejected is not persuasive. As explained above, the combination of Kano and Jatko disclose the features recited in claims 1 and 8. With regards to claims 18 and 20, these claims merely recite that the artifacts have an elongated shape. Note that the shape of the artifact alone is not considered patently distinct because the shape would merely depend on the type of image that was being subtracted and the resulting misregistration. Thus, the shape of the artifact is considered obvious in view of all the different possible shapes that could result from the misregistration of two subtracted images.

Moreover, Jatko's morphological processing is clearly capable of suppressing a variety of different shaped artifacts, including elongated ones. Therefore, Kano and Jatko disclose not only the features recited in claims 1 and 8, but also the features recited in claims 18 and 20 as well.

At this point, I can include the arguments above and send out a Final-Rejection. Or we can expedite prosecution and amend the claims to overcome the prior art. I have reviewed the entire specification and it appears that Jatko's morphological processing is very similar to the one described in the specification. The only difference I was able to find was the embodiment illustrated in figure 8 and described on pages 21 and 22. Neither Kano nor Jatko disclose separating the difference image into a high-density and low-density image, applying the morphological processing on the two images, and combining the two processed images.

Hence I propose the following claim language that would overcome the prior art.

"wherein the image process further comprises separating the difference image into a high-density image formed from portions of the difference image having a density equal to or higher than a predetermined density and a low-density image formed from portions having a density less than the predetermined density, applying said morphology process to both the high-density and low-density images, and combining the high-density and low-density images after the morphology process is applied."

Adding this language to claims 1 and 8 would put the case in condition for allowance.

If you have any questions, or if you would like to discuss this matter in greater detail, please feel free to contact me.

Regards,

Charles Kim
Patent Examiner
United States Patent and Trademark Office
AU2624